CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 125(FIN)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 5/3/07 Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): SENATE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

- "An Act relating to the accounting and payment of contributions under the retirement plans of the Public Employees' Retirement System of Alaska and the Teachers' Retirement System, to calculations of contributions under those retirement plans, and to participation in, and termination of and amendments to participation in, the defined benefit plans of those systems; relating to employer contributions to the health reimbursement arrangement plan; making conforming amendments; and providing for an effective date."
- 8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:
- 9 * Section 1. AS 14.25.070 is repealed and reenacted to read:
- Sec. 14.25.070. Contributions by employers. (a) Each employer shall contribute to the system every payroll period an amount calculated by applying a rate of 12.56 percent to the total of all base salaries paid by the employer to active members of the system, including any adjustments to contributions required by

1	AS 14.25.173(a).
2	(b) The employer shall transmit the contributions calculated in (a) of this
3	section to the administrator in accordance with AS 14.25.065. The administrator shall
4	allocate contributions received for full payment of
5	(1) the actuarially determined employer normal cost for the plan; and
6	(2) all contributions required by AS 14.25.350 and AS 39.30.370 for
7	the fiscal year.
8	(c) If, after allocation of contributions under (b) of this section, a portion of
9	the employer contributions remains, the administrator shall apply that remaining
10	portion toward payment of the past service liability of the plan.
11	(d) Notwithstanding (a) of this section, the annual employer contribution rate
12	may not be less than the rate sufficient to allow payment of the employer normal cos
13	and the employer contributions required under AS 14.25.350 and AS 39.30.370.
14	(e) An employer of a retired member rehired under AS 14.20.135 shall include
15	that member's base salary when calculating the contribution amount established in (a
16	of this section.
17	(f) In this section, "normal cost" means the cost of providing the benefits
18	expected to be credited, with respect to service, to all active members of the plan
19	during the year beginning after the last valuation date.
20	* Sec. 2. AS 14.25 is amended by adding a new section to read:
21	Sec. 14.25.085. Additional state contributions. In addition to the
22	contributions that the state is required to make under AS 14.25.070 as an employer
23	the state shall contribute to the plan each July 1 or, if funds are not available on July 1
24	as soon after July 1 as funds become available, an amount for the ensuing fiscal year
25	that, when combined with the total employer contributions that the administrator
26	estimates will be allocated under AS 14.25.070(c), is sufficient to pay the plan's pas
27	service liability at the contribution rate adopted by the board under AS 37.10.220 for
28	that fiscal year.
29	* Sec. 3. AS 14.25.220 is amended by adding new paragraphs to read:
30	(46) "past service liability" means the actuarially determined excess or

the accrued liability of the plan over the value of the plan's assets, as of the date of the

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1	last actuarial valuation;
2	(47) "system" means all retirement plans established under the
3	teachers' retirement system.
4	* Sec. 4. AS 14.25.350(d) is amended to read:
5	(d) An employer shall also make contributions to the health reimbursement
6	arrangement plan under AS 39.30.370 [AS 39.30.300].
7	* Sec. 5. AS 39.35.100 is repealed and reenacted to read:
8	Sec. 39.35.100. Accounting. (a) The commissioner shall establish and
9	maintain an adequate system of accounts and records for the plan. The accounts and
10	records shall be integrated with the accounts, records, and procedures of the employers
11	to the end that they operate most effectively and at minimum expense, and that
12	duplication of records and accounts is avoided.
13	(b) An individual account shall be maintained for each employee to record the
14	amount of the employee's mandatory contributions collected under AS 39.35.160(a).
15	As of the last day of each calendar year and of each fiscal year, this account shall be
16	credited with interest by applying the prescribed rate of interest, as determined by the
17	board, to the balance in the account as of that date. When the employee is appointed to
18	retirement, the amount held in the individual account shall be used first to fully
19	finance the benefits paid. Once this account has been exhausted, the plan shall fully
20	finance the benefits paid that were not financed by the employee's individual account.
21	(c) An individual account shall be maintained for each employee to record the
22	amount of the employee's voluntary contributions to an employee savings account
23	under AS 39.35.180. As of the last day of each calendar year and of each fiscal year
24	this account shall be credited with interest by applying the prescribed rate of interest
25	as determined by the board, to the balance in the account as of that date. Amounts that
26	before termination of employment, are withdrawn by an employee from the
27	employee's savings account shall be charged to that account. When an employee is
28	appointed to retirement, the amount held in the employee's savings account shall be
29	paid in accordance with AS 39.35.395.
30	* Sec. 6. AS 39.35.115 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

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(d)

The retirement plan set out in AS 39.35.095 - 39.35.680 is a joint

contributory plan.

(e) If, upon termination of the plan, all liabilities of the plan have been satisfied, any excess assets revert to the employers, as determined by the administrator, subject to the approval of the termination by the Internal Revenue Service.

* **Sec. 7.** AS 39.35.125(a) is amended to read:

(a) An elected official of the state or of a political subdivision of the state if the political subdivision has elected under AS 39.35.600 - 39.35.650 [AS 39.35.550 - 39.35.650] to designate elected officials in the classifications of employees entitled to participate in the plan is included in the plan unless the official files a written waiver of coverage with the administrator. A waiver under this subsection waives coverage of future employment as an elected official, regardless of any change of employer. An elected official may file a waiver under this subsection at any time after election to office, including the period before taking the oath of office. An elected official may revoke a waiver under this subsection by filing a written revocation with the administrator. A revocation under this subsection operates prospectively only, and the elected official may not receive credited service for service as an elected official while the waiver was in effect. There is no limit on the number of times an elected official may file a waiver or revocation under this subsection.

* **Sec. 8.** AS 39.35.160(c) is amended to read:

(c) An employee who has made an election under AS 39.35.300(c) or 39.35.310(c) to have the employee's years of service as a noncertificated employee of a state boarding school, of a school district or regional educational attendance area, of the special education service agency, or of the Alaska Vocational Technical Center determined by reference to AS 14.25.220 shall pay a contribution surcharge for that service. The amount of the surcharge is the difference between the amount the employer would have had to contribute under AS 39.35.255 - 39.35.290 [AS 39.35.250 - 39.35.290] for the employee when treating the employee's credited service as service earned under AS 39.35.300(c) or 39.35.310(c) less the amount the employer would have had to contribute under AS 39.35.255 - 39.35.290 [AS 39.35.250 - 39.35.290] without treating the employee's credited service as service

1	earned under AS 39.35.300(c) or 39.35.310(c).
2	* Sec. 9. AS 39.35 is amended by adding a new section to read:
3	Sec. 39.35.255. Contributions by employers. (a) Each employer shall
4	contribute to the system every payroll period an amount calculated by applying a rate
5	of 22 percent of the greater of the total of all base salaries
6	(1) paid by the employer to employees who are active members of the
7	system, including any adjustments to contributions required by AS 39.35.520; or
8	(2) paid by the employer to employees who were active members or
9	the system during the corresponding payroll period for the fiscal year ending June 30
10	2007.
11	(b) The administrator shall allocate contributions received for full payment of
12	(1) the actuarially determined employer normal cost for the plan; and
13	(2) all contributions required by AS 39.30.370 and AS 39.35.750 for
14	the fiscal year.
15	(c) If, after allocation of contributions under (b) of this section, a portion of
16	the employer contributions remains, the administrator shall apply that remaining
17	portion toward payment of the past service liability of the plan.
18	(d) Notwithstanding (a) of this section, the annual employer contribution rate
19	may not be less than the rate sufficient to allow payment of the employer normal cos
20	and the employer contributions required under AS 39.30.370 and AS 39.35.750.
21	(e) An employer of a retired member rehired under AS 39.35.150 shall include
22	that member's base salary when calculating the contribution amount established in (a)
23	of this section.
24	(f) In this section, "normal cost" means the cost of providing the benefits
25	expected to be credited, with respect to service, to all active members of the plan
26	during the year beginning after the last valuation date.
27	* Sec. 10. AS 39.35.280 is repealed and reenacted to read:
28	Sec. 39.35.280. Additional state contributions. In addition to the
29	contributions that the state is required to make under AS 39.35.255 as an employer
30	the state shall contribute to the plan each July 1 or, if funds are not available on July 1
31	as soon after July 1 as funds become available, an amount for the ensuing fiscal year

that, when combined with the total employer contributions that the administrator estimates will be allocated under AS 39.35.255(c), is sufficient to pay the plan's past service liability at the contribution rate adopted by the board under AS 37.10.220 for that fiscal year.

* **Sec. 11.** AS 39.35.520(a) is amended to read:

(a) When a change or error is made in the records maintained by the plan or in the contributions made on behalf of an employee or an error is made in computing a benefit, and, as a result, an employee or beneficiary is entitled to receive from the plan more or less than the employee would have been entitled to receive had the records or contributions been correct or had the error not been made, (1) the records, contributions, or error shall be corrected, and (2) as far as practicable, future payments or benefit entitlement shall be adjusted so that the actuarial equivalent of the pension or benefit to which the employee or beneficiary was correctly entitled shall be paid. An adjustment to contributions shall be picked up by the employer under AS 39.35.160 or treated as an adjustment to the employer's contributions under AS 39.35.255 [AS 39.35.270], depending upon the nature of the adjustment. If no future payment is due, a person who was paid any amount to which the person was not entitled is liable for repayment of that amount, and a person who was not paid the full amount to which the person was entitled shall be paid the balance of that amount.

* Sec. 12. AS 39.35.610 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(b) If contributions are not submitted within the prescribed time limit, the amount of contributions and interest due may be claimed by the administrator from any agency of the state or political subdivision that has in its possession funds of the employer or that is authorized to disburse funds to the employer that are not restricted by statute or appropriation to a specific purpose. The amount claimed shall be certified by the administrator as sufficient to pay the contributions and interest due from the employer, and the agency shall submit the amount claimed, or the amount of funds of the employer subject to the administrator's claim that are in the agency's possession, whichever is less, to the administrator for deposit in the appropriate accounts. After the agency submits this amount to the administrator, the employer may appeal the administrator's claim to the office of administrative hearings (AS 44.64). If an appeal

is timely filed, the administrator shall hold the submitted funds in an escrow account pending a final decision on the appeal.

* **Sec. 13.** AS 39.35.615(a) is amended to read:

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- A political subdivision or public organization may request that its participation agreement be amended. The request may be made only after adoption of a resolution by the legislative body of the political subdivision and approval of the resolution by the person required by law to approve the resolution, or, in the case of a public organization, after adoption of a resolution by the governing body of that public organization. A certified copy of the resolution shall be filed with the administrator. An employer may not award past service to employees added to its participation agreement. When an employer requests to amend its participation agreement to add an elected official, the plan may cover that elected official only if the employer pays compensation to the elected official, for services as an elected official, in the amount of at least \$2,001 a month. If a political subdivision or public organization amends its participation agreement so as to terminate coverage of a department, group, or other classification of employees, each employee whose coverage is so terminated, regardless of the employee's employment status at the date of termination, shall be considered fully vested in actuarially adjusted accrued retirement benefits as of the date of termination, unless
 - (1) the employee's contributions have been refunded; or
- (2) the political subdivision or public organization amended its participation agreement to exclude coverage for the affected department, group, or other classification of employees at the written request of a majority of the employees employed in that department, group, or other classification at the time the request was made.
- * **Sec. 14.** AS 39.35.615(f) is amended to read:
 - (f) Termination of coverage of a department, group, or other classification of employees does not bar future coverage of that department, group, or classification <u>if</u> the employer is current with payments on amounts due under AS 39.35.625. If coverage of a department, group, or classification is terminated under (a) of this section and the employer later amends its participation agreement to provide renewed

1	coverage of that department, group, or classification, an affected employee may be
2	credited only with future service.
3	* Sec. 15. AS 39.35.620(h) is amended to read:
4	(h) Termination of an employer's participation in the plan does not bar future
5	participation in the system [PLAN] by that employer if the employer is current with
6	payments on amounts due under AS 39.35.625. If a previously terminated employer
7	returns to the system, the employer may only participate in the plan established
8	under AS 39.35.700 - 39.35.990. Employees [PLAN EMPLOYEES] may be credited
9	under AS 39.35.700 - 39.35.990 only with service subsequent to the date of return.
10	[ADJUSTMENTS MADE TO THE ACCRUED BENEFITS OF THE EMPLOYEES
11	OF THE PREVIOUSLY TERMINATED EMPLOYER AT THE TIME OF THE
12	TERMINATION MAY NOT BE ALTERED BY THAT EMPLOYER'S RETURN
13	TO PARTICIPATION IN THE PLAN.]
14	* Sec. 16. AS 39.35 is amended by adding a new section to read:
15	Sec. 39.35.625. Termination costs. (a) Notwithstanding AS 39.35.255, an
16	employer that terminates participation of a department, group, or other classification
17	of employees in the plan under AS 39.35.615 or that terminates participation in the
18	plan under AS 39.35.620 shall pay to the plan each payroll period until the past service
19	liability of the plan is extinguished an amount calculated by applying the current past
20	service contribution rate adopted by the board to the greater of total base salaries paid
21	(1) during the payroll period to employees in positions for which
22	coverage has been terminated;
23	(2) at the time of termination to employees in positions for which
24	coverage has been terminated; or
25	(3) during the corresponding payroll period for the fiscal year ending
26	June 30, 2007, to employees in positions for which coverage has been terminated.
27	(b) Notwithstanding (a) of this section, the administrator may enter into a
28	payment plan acceptable to the administrator for payment of an employer's liability for
29	termination costs. Termination costs not paid as prescribed by (a) of this section or in
30	accordance with an approved payment plan may be collected by the administrator in

accordance with AS 39.35.610(b).

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1	(c) An employer requesting termination of all participation in the plan,
2	termination of participation in the plan of a department, group, or other classification
3	of employees, or a payment plan for payment of termination costs shall pay the cost
4	associated with obtaining a termination cost study associated with the employer's
5	termination.
6	* Sec. 17. AS 39.35.650 is amended to read:
7	Sec. 39.35.650. Refunds to employers. An employer may not receive an
8	amount from the plan, except as provided under AS 39.35.115(e) [AS 39.35.615(e)
9	AND 39.35.620(g)].
10	* Sec. 18. AS 39.35.680 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:
11	(43) "past service liability" means the actuarially determined excess of
12	the accrued liability of the plan over the value of the plan's assets, as of the date of the
13	last actuarial valuation.
14	* Sec. 19. AS 39.35.750(d) is amended to read:
15	(d) An employer shall also make contributions to the health reimbursement
16	arrangement plan under AS 39.30.370 [AS 39.30.300].
17	* Sec. 20. AS 39.35.250, 39.35.260, 39.35.270, 39.35.550, 39.35.560, 39.35.570, 39.35.580,
18	39.35.590, 39.35.615(d), 39.35.615(e), 39.35.620(c), 39.35.620(f), and 39.35.620(g) are
19	repealed.
20	* Sec. 21. The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
21	read:
22	TRANSITION. (a) Notwithstanding AS 39.35.255, as enacted by sec. 9 of this Act,
23	the employer contributions under AS 39.35.255(a) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008,
24	shall be calculated separately for certain employers by applying an independent percentage to
25	the annual total of base salaries paid by the employer to employees who are active members
26	of the public employees' retirement system and to employees who are retired members who
27	are rehired under AS 39.35.150. The employers subject to this separate calculation and the
28	independent percentages that apply to each are
29	(1) the City of Akutan, 13.32 percent;
30	(2) the Aleutian Housing Authority, 14.95 percent;
31	(3) the Aleutian Region School District, 13.32 percent;

1	(4) the Aleutians East Borough, 3.24 percent;
2	(5) the City of Allakaket, 14.48 percent;
3	(6) the Municipality of Anchorage; 21.51 percent;
4	(7) the City of Anderson, 13.32 percent;
5	(8) the Annette Islands School District, 13.32 percent;
6	(9) the Baranof Island Housing Authority, 13.32 percent;
7	(10) the City of Barrow, 13.47 percent;
8	(11) the Bartlett Regional Hospital, 17.20 percent;
9	(12) the Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority, 14.77 percent;
10	(13) the City of Bethel, 10.33 percent;
11	(14) the Bristol Bay Borough, 17.95 percent;
12	(15) the Bristol Bay Housing Authority, 15.06 percent;
13	(16) the Cook Inlet Housing Authority, 15.06 percent;
14	(17) the Copper River Basin Regional Housing Authority, 14.76 percent;
15	(18) the City of Cordova, 12.85 percent;
16	(19) the City of Delta Junction, 13.31 percent;
17	(20) the Denali Borough, 3.07 percent;
18	(21) the City of Egegik, 15.84 percent;
19	(22) the City of Fort Yukon, 13.32 percent;
20	(23) the City of Galena, 9.64 percent;
21	(24) the City of Hooper Bay, 13.32 percent;
22	(25) the City of Huslia, 17.68 percent;
23	(26) the Ilisagvik College, 13.90 percent;
24	(27) the Interior Regional Housing Authority, 14.23 percent;
25	(28) the Inter-Island Ferry Authority, 13.36 percent;
26	(29) the City of Kachemak, 4.92 percent;
27	(30) the Kenai Peninsula Borough, 17.11 percent;
28	(31) the Ketchikan Gateway Borough, 13.04 percent;
29	(32) the City of Ketchikan, 12.03 percent;
30	(33) the City of Klawock, 9.59 percent;
31	(34) the Kodiak Island Borough, 4.55 percent;

1	(33) the City of Rodiak, 14.88 percent;
2	(36) the City of Kotzebue, 13.32 percent;
3	(37) the City of Koyuk, 14.48 percent;
4	(38) the Lake and Peninsula Borough, 9.25 percent;
5	(39) the City of Mekoryuk, 13.32 percent;
6	(40) the City of Mountain Village, 13.32 percent;
7	(41) the Nenana City School District, 17.79 percent;
8	(42) the City of Noorvik, 13.45 percent;
9	(43) the North Pacific Rim Housing Authority, 14.70 percent;
10	(44) the City of North Pole, 15.55 percent;
11	(45) the Northwest Arctic Borough, 14.19 percent;
12	(46) the Northwest Arctic Borough School District, 15.00 percent;
13	(47) the Northwest Inupiat Housing Authority, 15.17 percent;
14	(48) the City of Palmer, 13.33 percent;
15	(49) the Pelican City School District, 13.32 percent;
16	(50) the City of Petersburg, 12.20 percent;
17	(51) the Petersburg Medical Center, 15.89 percent;
18	(52) the City of Quinhagak, 1.15 percent;
19	(53) the Saint Mary's School District, 13.32 percent;
20	(54) the City of Saxman, 17.53 percent;
21	(55) the City of Seldovia, 16.64 percent;
22	(56) the City of Seward, 12.66 percent;
23	(57) the Skagway City School District, 16.44 percent;
24	(58) the City of Soldotna, 13.04 percent;
25	(59) the Tagiugmiullu Nunamiullu Housing Authority, 13.32 percent;
26	(60) the City of Tanana, 1.60 percent;
27	(61) the Tanana School District, 16.59 percent;
28	(62) the Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority, 18.39 percent;
29	(63) the City of Unalakleet, 9.94 percent;
30	(64) the City of Upper Kalskag, 14.48 percent;
31	(65) the City of Valdez, 17.15 percent:

1	(66) the City of Whittier, 15.00 percent;
2	(67) the City and Borough of Yakutat, 18.94 percent;
3	(68) the Yakutat School District, 15.49 percent;
4	(69) the Yukon/Koyukuk School District, 13.70 percent;
5	(70) the Yukon Flats School District, 13.32 percent;
6	(71) the Yupiit School District, 14.52 percent.
7	(b) Notwithstanding AS 39.35.255, as enacted by sec. 9 of this Act, the employer
8	contributions under AS 39.35.255(a) for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2009, June 30, 2010,
9	June 30, 2011, and June 30, 2012, shall be calculated separately for certain employers by
10	applying an independent percentage to the annual total of base salaries paid by the employer
11	to employees who are active members of the public employees' retirement system and to
12	employees who are retired members who are rehired under AS 39.35.150. The employers
13	subject to this separate calculation and the independent percentages that apply to each are
14	(1) the City of Akutan, 13.32 percent;
15	(2) the Aleutian Housing Authority, 14.95 percent;
16	(3) the Aleutian Region School District, 13.32 percent;
17	(4) the Aleutians East Borough, 15.23 percent;
18	(5) the City of Allakaket, 14.48 percent;
19	(6) the City of Anderson, 13.32 percent;
20	(7) the Annette Islands School District, 13.32 percent;
21	(8) the Baranof Island Housing Authority, 13.32 percent;
22	(9) the City of Barrow, 17.26 percent;
23	(10) the Bartlett Regional Hospital, 17.20 percent;
24	(11) the Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority, 14.77 percent;
25	(12) the City of Bethel, 15.08 percent;
26	(13) the Bristol Bay Regional Housing Authority, 15.06 percent;
27	(14) the Cook Inlet Housing Authority, 15.06 percent;
28	(15) the Copper River Basin Regional Housing Authority, 14.76 percent;
29	(16) the City of Delta Junction, 14.47 percent;
30	(17) the City of Fort Yukon, 13.32 percent;
31	(18) the City of Galena, 13.40 percent;

1	(19) the City of Hooper Bay, 13.32 percent,
2	(20) the Ilisagvik College, 13.90 percent;
3	(21) the Interior Regional Housing Authority, 14.23 percent;
4	(22) the Inter-Island Ferry Authority, 13.36 percent;
5	(23) the City of Klawock, 14.35 percent;
6	(24) the City of Kotzebue, 13.32 percent;
7	(25) the City of Koyuk, 14.48 percent;
8	(26) the City of Mekoryuk, 13.32 percent;
9	(27) the City of Mountain Village, 13.32 percent;
10	(28) the Nenana City School District, 17.79 percent;
11	(29) the City of Noorvik, 13.45 percent.
12	(30) the North Pacific Rim Housing Authority, 14.70 percent;
13	(31) the Northwest Arctic Borough, 14.19 percent;
14	(32) the Northwest Arctic Borough School District, 15.00 percent;
15	(33) the Northwest Inupiat Housing Authority, 15.17 percent;
16	(34) the Pelican City School District, 13.32 percent;
17	(35) the Petersburg Medical Center, 15.89 percent;
18	(36) the City of Quinhagak, 13.32 percent;
19	(37) the Saint Mary's City School District, 13.32 percent;
20	(38) the City of Seldovia, 16.64 percent;
21	(39) the Skagway City School District, 16.44 percent;
22	(40) the City of Soldotna, 13.04 percent;
23	(41) the Tagiugmiullu Nunamiullu Housing Authority, 13.32 percent;
24	(42) the City of Tanana, 13.32 percent;
25	(43) the Tanana School District, 16.59 percent;
26	(44) the Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority, 18.39 percent;
27	(45) the City of Upper Kalskag, 14.48 percent;
28	(46) the City of Whittier, 15.00 percent;
29	(47) the Yakutat School District, 15.49 percent;
30	(48) the Yukon/Koyukuk School District, 13.70 percent;
31	(49) the Yukon Flats School District, 13.32 percent:

- 1 (50) the Yupiit School District, 14.52 percent.
- * Sec. 22. The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
- 3 read:
- 4 TRANSITION: REGULATIONS. The Department of Administration and the
- 5 Department of Revenue may proceed to adopt regulations to implement their respective
- 6 provisions of this Act.
- * Sec. 23. Sections 21 and 22 of this Act take effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).
- * Sec. 24. Except as provided in sec. 23 of this Act, this Act takes effect July 1, 2007.